

Issue 19, **June 2013**

- Update on 2013 CIF Request for Expressions of Interest
- Electrical Retrofits Lead to Substantial Cost Savings at OVWRC
- Greater Sudbury Finds that Large Containers Can Work!
- 'Smart' RFP Results in Cost-effective Enhancements at the Durham MRF
- Solar Compactors Add Up to Substantial Cost-savings for Low Volume Programs
- Accumulating CIF Project Learnings to Meet the Multi-Res Challenge...
- CIF's Container Purchasing Program
- Project Support Webinars for Municipal Staff
- Just Who are CIF Staff?
- Blue Box Training Course Comes to Barrie in the Fall
- Thanks to all for the Spring Ontario Recycler Workshop

First off, let me start this issue of Connections by taking a moment to thank all of you who participated again this spring in the AMO/CIF joint outreach consultations. I think I can safely speak for both organizations with I say that your involvement is invaluable.

Over 110 people representing over 60 municipalities participated in five sessions across Ontario this spring. Your comments and input serve to guide AMO policy considerations, and CIF planning and priority development. It's an important opportunity for all of us to sit back and talk about what's working and what isn't. If the feedback we've received this year is any indication, then it certainly sounds like we've made great progress over the past several months and as always, there are opportunities for continuous improvement.

Here is a sample of some of the themes we heard in your comments.

There is continued support for CIF including:

- There is continued support for CIF including:
  - ongoing support for the Centre of Excellence,
  - continued project funding, and
  - support for funding up to 5% of steward obligation.
- Attendees found the 2013 REOI easier to understand, with simpler forms and with a focus on the right areas.
- Participants appreciate the fact that AMO and CIF are visiting their parts of the province to find out more about local conditions and their day to day working environments.
- There is a desire for CIF to develop more local working groups.
- Participants voiced support to include the following in the 2014 budget:
  - province-wide P&E campaigns,
  - school curriculum & multi-language P&E,
  - more composition auditing, and
  - on-line training.

I will let you know when the 2008 to 2013 Review is available and as always, I welcome your thoughts, concerns and questions,

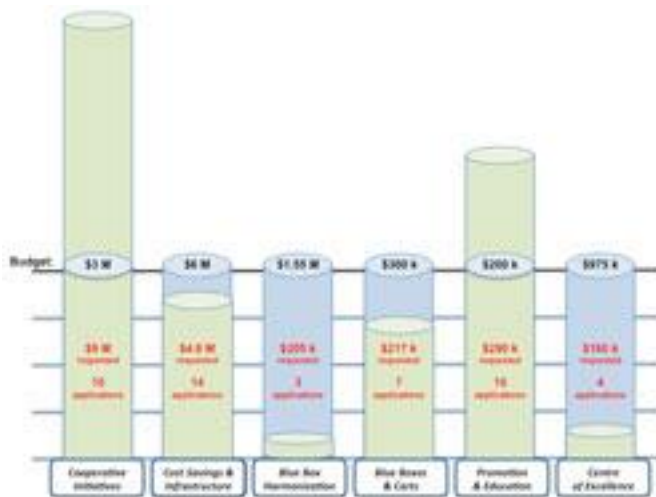
*Mike*

Mike Birett, CIF Program Director  
[mbirett@wdo.ca](mailto:mbirett@wdo.ca) or 905-936-5661

### Update on 2013 CIF Request for Expressions of Interest

The May 6 submission date for the 2013 Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) has come and gone and at the CIF, we are now reviewing and considering the nearly 50 project proposals that were sent in. The results clearly demonstrate municipalities' ongoing commitment to working on optimization of the Blue Box system with \$17.4 million in proposals that are consistent with the objectives of the MIPC Optimization Study and another 6.1 million in cost saving initiatives. Taken together, this is a great response that speaks to the importance of providing funding to address key issues identified by municipal waste management staff during last year's consultations.

Those of you who have participated in the past REOI processes will know that in the next part of the process, each proposal is assigned a 'project manager' who will work with you to address any remaining questions and prepare your submission for evaluation and then, approval by either the CIF Director, Projects Committee or CIF Committee depending on its value. As part of a continuing effort to reduce confusion and simplify the administrative process for participants, we are working on a step-by-step guide for completing projects, invoicing and reporting and hope to have it on line this summer.



In total, incoming submissions requested approximately \$15 million in funding for a total project value of nearly \$30 million. As expected, difficult decisions lie ahead as the requests for funding exceed this year's project budget by about \$3 million. We expect to complete the review of existing submissions through the summer and award new project grants in early fall. If this timing presents a problem for your project, please let us know.

The 2013 REOI was developed with comments and feedback from municipalities and our program partners. We heard positive feedback during the spring consultation about the submission process, particularly in relation to selected priorities and simpler forms. We're glad that this process has worked better and always welcome your suggestions for future improvements so please be sure to [contact](#) a CIF staff member with your ideas.

For more information, please contact Alec Scott at 705-722-0225 or [archenv@sympatico.ca](mailto:archenv@sympatico.ca).

### **Electrical Retrofits Lead to Substantial Cost Savings at OVWRC**

In early 2012, Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre (OVWRC) installed new high output light fixtures throughout its 24,500 sq. ft./7,200 tpy two-stream MRF. The goal: to decrease maintenance/replacement costs associated with the older fixtures and improve lighting and health and safety in the building.

OVWRC installed 42 "Hi-Bay" light fixtures for a total labour and material cost of \$21,750 (slightly less than the \$25,000 budget). With an annual lighting requirement of about 4,000 hours per year, OVWRC estimates the year one savings at just over \$4,000 or approximately 7% of the total annual energy budget.

With the improved lighting, quite simply – we can see into areas that used to be dark (or darker) and we're experiencing fewer health and safety incidents as a result," states Sue McCrae, General Manager of OVWRC. "Taking into account the CIF's contribution of \$9,674, we're looking at a very manageable payback period of just three and a quarter years so for us, there's no question that this has been a valuable investment."

View the project report: [http://cif.wdo.ca/projects/documents/380-OVWRC\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://cif.wdo.ca/projects/documents/380-OVWRC_Final_Report.pdf)

For more information contact: Sue McCrae, OVWRC General Manager, 613-735-7537, ext. 214/ [smccrae@ovwrc.com](mailto:smccrae@ovwrc.com)

## Greater Sudbury Finds that Large Containers Can Work

Managing health and safety is a critical issue in recycling and of course, container size is a vital factor in protecting not only workers, but the public as well. Several communities have wrestled with the question of bin size, struggling to ensure that they provide enough capacity without overburdening collectors.

With that in mind, the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) conducted a pilot, which offered up to 2,000 large – “Big Blue” – containers for a twelve-month test program. The containers, known locally as “Big Blue,” hold about the same volume as three traditional blue boxes. They are pliable, 32-gallon LLDPE units with molded handles and removable lids. The City offered the bins at half price (\$17/bin) to residents, beginning in May 2010.

### *Pilot goals*

Sudbury sought to answer four key questions:

1. Would the lids help contain the recyclables and reduce litter?
2. With extra capacity, would residents stop placing materials out in plastic bags (not accepted in this program)?
3. Would the larger boxes be more visible through the winter months, and thus, less subject to damage and replacement?
4. Would Big Blue promote increased waste diversion?

### *Purchasing recycling bins?*

For many communities, offering recycling bins at a cost (even at half cost) would raise questions – will people purchase the bins, what's the right price, is it worth the effort? The City found that this approach really did work for some residents. Many households are smaller and had no need for the large bin; others found that they liked the smaller blue boxes while indeed some refused on the grounds of cost. In allowing residents to choose from various containers, whether it be a traditional blue box they can obtain at no cost, or Big Blue, which they can purchase at a reduced cost, everyone in the CGS is able to find something that works for their needs.

Surprisingly, several households are also purchasing similar items at local hardware stores at higher costs. With more than 4,000 bins on the streets and a continuing steady flow of purchasers at the City, offering Big Blue at cost has not proven to be a significant barrier to their acceptance.

### *Results and next steps*

Residents and collectors are satisfied with the larger bins as they simplify the process for both – assuming that the bins are filled to no more than 40 lb. each. In terms of health and safety, contractors report that they are pleased to lift fewer containers overall, with less bending to equal amounts of material.

“Big Blue works for us,” reports Renee Brownlee, CGS’ Supervisor of Collection and Recycling. “It provides capacity to recycle more, it saves money and hopefully eases the strain for both residents and our collectors. We’re very pleased with the uptake to date and see this as an option that is now here to stay for Sudbury residents.”



While there has been no significant increase in total Blue Box program recovery that can be associated directly to the Big Blue, individual users of Big Blues indicated that they were now recycling more within their residences. Using Big Blue has also helped reduce litter and usage of plastic bags for excess materials and winter bin damage has dropped off significantly. With these positive results, the City is continuing to stock Big Blue as a regular part of its inventory, continuing to sell the bins at \$17 per container.

*For more information*

Renee Brownlee, Supervisor of Collection and Recycling, City of Greater Sudbury  
705 671-2489, ext. 4356 [renee.brownlee@greatersudbury.ca](mailto:renee.brownlee@greatersudbury.ca).

View the Project report: [Project 242 The Big Blue: Increase Container Capacity and Control Litter – Pilot](#)

### **'Smart' RFP Results in Cost-effective Enhancements at the Durham MRF**

In August 2012, Durham Region released a request for proposals to operate and maintain its two-stream MRF, receiving an expected five responses to the opportunity.

Working with a consultant and using the CIF's model tender as a base, the Region added specific requirements to clarify roles and responsibilities, protect MRF assets and increase recovery. The RFP included specific requirements that the contractor would:

- design and install an enhanced residue recovery line
- change the tubs and lids line to a mixed plastics line to increase overall capture
- regularly track and report on activities and materials
- operate its own rolling stock rather than use fork lifts and other rolling equipment provided by the Region.

With this RFP, the Region was able to shift, refine and more clearly establish the roles and responsibilities of the contractor, although Durham continues to operate its own scale house and markets materials.

The contract came into effect just over half a year ago, but already the Region has documented significant performance improvements, among them:

- *Enhanced residue management* – installation of the new residue recovery line combined with residue management as the contractor's responsibility has decreased residue from approximately 6% to under 3%
- *Increased mixed plastics capture* due to the installation of a second compressor and upgrades and improved optical sorter software
- *Improved documentation* – with more frequent tracking and reporting on maintenance records, utility and other operating costs, and inventory status
- *Faster response and resolution* of non-compliance issues resulting from the contract provision of including liquidated damages (e.g., failure to adhere to agreed staffing plans)
- *Elimination of rolling stock damage and disrepair* - with contractor-owned equipment
- *Reduced downtime* – ongoing machinery servicing is now a contractor responsibility, reducing overall downtime and improving operations
- *Cleaning schedule* – the facilities are now kept to a higher standard of cleanliness due to the implementation of a mandatory cleaning schedule.

The Region has placed a significant investment in finding out how to enhance its contracts and the results to date speak for themselves. With this new knowledge, the Region has put in place a contract that protects and enhances its level of service to residents.

*For more information:* Stephanie Sidler, Waste Management Technician, Regional Municipality of Durham. Email: [Stephanie.Sidler@durham.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Sidler@durham.ca) or phone: 905-579-5264 ext. 2235.

View the project report: [http://cif.wdo.ca/pdf/reports/701-Durham\\_RFP.pdf](http://cif.wdo.ca/pdf/reports/701-Durham_RFP.pdf)

## **Solar Compactors Add up to Substantial Cost-savings for Low Volume Programs**

You don't have to operate a high volume program to achieve high impact cost savings – as many of the 28 depot and transfer station projects that have received CIF funding have demonstrated over the past several months. Programs that are in the 100 to 500 tonne per year range for Blue Box material are ideal performers for several solutions that are being reported on now.

A consistent over-performer in the category of 'small program-big ideas' are solar compactor systems that have been added to seven programs recently. The cost savings on some individual compactor installations have been substantial – even in the range of up to \$50,000 per year.

Current technology in solar compactors enables operators to monitor bin capacity from their offices, avoiding unnecessary trips to check on the bins by tracking real time data online. These are cost-effective solutions that feature typical payback periods in the range of two to three years, and are thus a logical choice for many rural depots and transfer stations.

Experiences in the Township of Carling and District Municipality of Muskoka demonstrate the potential impact of the compactors. Having installed 2 solar powered compactors at each of its depots, the Township of Carling is expecting to significantly increase hauling efficiencies (at approximately \$30,000 per year) while streamlining its operations. The District of Muskoka installed a total of six solar compactors at three depot locations that has resulted in a net annual hauling efficiency of just over \$40,000 due to a 70% reduction in the number of lifts (2011).

Reports on this and several others point to increasing efficiencies that are easily attainable for smaller and mid-size communities, with reasonable costs and quick pay-back periods.

View the [District of Muskoka Solar Powered Compactor report](#)

## **Accumulating CIF Project Learnings to Meet the Multi-Res Challenge...**

Over the past few months, the CIF has hosted three virtual Multi Residential Round Tables with representatives of a cross-section of Ontario recycling programs. Each participant has shared their experiences in implementing targeted programs to increase multi-residential recycling and provided insights as to their vision of 'what's next'. We thank more than 25 program representatives who have dedicated their time to considering how to improve recycling for multi-res buildings in diverse communities around the province.

Since 2009, the CIF has provided over just under \$3 million in project support for just under roughly 40 multi-res projects, predominantly in small and medium-sized communities. While project details vary, the theme has been the same. Each of these projects focuses on learning more about the multi-residential sector – how residents see waste, how much is diverted from different types of buildings and different types of communities, what types of P&E may be most affective – all toward conditions that can help us all consider – “what next”?

In bringing together municipal staff members who have been most closely involved in this work, our goal is to work toward generating an understanding of multi-res behaviours that will, over time, be on par with available knowledge about how single family households manage recycling. We plan to accumulate this body of knowledge within the “Centre of Excellence,” providing insights from completed projects and formulating recommendations for program management improvements.

Over time, the CIF plans to publish a series of online tools that can be used to address multi-res recycling challenges, with ‘time saving’ tips for communicating with building operators and monitoring capture rates. In the nearer future, we will share a report on the three round tables, along with a summary of next steps and as always, seek your questions and comments. For more information, email [Carrie Nash](#).

### **CIF's Container Purchasing Program**

For several years, the CIF has offered a joint procurement program through which it has co-ordinated bulk purchasing efficiencies for blue boxes and recycling carts. To date, the joint tendering for blue boxes alone has resulted in cost reductions of 37%, with the purchase of more than 700,000 boxes and an increase of 800,000 m<sup>3</sup> capacity annually. In addition, 26 programs have purchased carts to implement the best practices ratio for containers in multi-res buildings.

The tenders for both the cart and blue box programs have now expired and the CIF plans to go out to tender for containers through the summer of 2013. Our goal is to have updated tenders in place by early fall 2013. In the meantime, if you plan to purchase containers or carts in the near future, please contact [Carrie Nash](#).

### **Project Support Webinars for Municipal Staff**

Since the beginning of 2013, the CIF has initiated a webinar series to provide information on a variety of topics such as how to write a measuring and monitoring plan and what should be included in a final CIF report, how to manage invoices and others. The goal of this process is to simplify procedures that may be difficult, especially focusing on the needs of small and medium sized communities.

We've heard comments such as “I enjoyed your webinar ...very well put together! I look forward to submitting my draft P&E Plan and working with you guys” from Jason Sullivan, West Nipissing Environment and “the presentation provided all the required knowledge necessary in order to implement our plan” from Jenna McNaughton, Town of Kirkland Lake.

With this feedback, we think we're hitting the mark – but are always open to your feedback about new topics. To find out more, please contact [Carrie Nash](#) for more information.

## Just Who are CIF Staff?

In the course of CIF staff members' travels we often encounter confusion about who we work for and other items about the CIF. The CIF is a partnership between AMO, City of Toronto, SO and WDO. CIF staff are contract AMO employees hired to manage the CIF on behalf of the partnership. The CIF is a committee of WDO (much like MIPC).

The CIF Committee consists of representatives of all organizations (with WDO being an observer and several independent members including the chair). Key decisions about the level of funding received by CIF and its strategic direction are made by MIPC. For more information about the CIF,

## Blue Box Training Course Comes to Barrie in the Fall

The CIF will be hosting the next "Blue Box" training course in October, 2013. Designed to focus on benchmarking and monitoring recycling program performance, the course will help satisfy the training related components of the Best Practice section of the Datacall. In this day-long course, instructors will provide specific guidance on how to measure the performance of various aspects of your Blue Box program, and to help set performance improvement objectives and put in place monitoring plans.

The course will be offered free of charge for municipal participants. Although the date is to be confirmed, it is expected to take place on Wednesday, October 9, the day prior to the Ontario Recycler Workshop; registration will open in the fall. Additional information will be posted to the CIF "[Training](#)" webpage or please contact [Carrie Nash](#).

## Thanks to all for the Spring Ontario Recycler Workshop

The CIF thanks more than 15 speakers and all participants who joined us in person and by webcast for the April 11 Ontario Recycler Workshop (ORW). The predictions of bad weather didn't scare off the many in person participants who enjoyed a day at the Kingston waterfront and all of us who learned about a variety of CIF projects and partner initiatives that are complete and in progress now. We also thank staff at the Northumberland and Quinte Waste Solutions MRFs who organized tours for interested participants the day before ORW. Judging by your comments – each of the two events provided value-added information and were time well spent!

At the ORW, speakers completed excellent presentations focusing on the impact of effective RFQ and contracting procedures, various approaches to managing material flow, municipalities working together to achieve new efficiencies and information on the Stewardship Ontario waste audit program and uses of these important data. The day wrapped up with a session featuring speakers that represent programs in three EPR programs across Canada – in BC, SK and MB with discussions of key features of the programs and the future of recycling in Ontario.

We'll soon be focusing on planning for the fall ORW, which is expected to take place in Barrie on Thursday, October 10. We always welcome your thoughts and suggestions on topics of interest and concern for the day's agenda. Why not drop us a line? Please email CIF Communications [CIFcommunications@wdo.ca](mailto:CIFcommunications@wdo.ca) with your ideas.